

## Dorothy Mahler

28 February 1941 – 12 December 2012

Dorothy Mahler was elected to the FNCV in 1985 and within a few years began an active contribution to the operation of the Club that was to continue until the end of 2012. In that time she occupied a range of positions within the Club.

Dorothy's natural history subject of choice was birdlife but she had wide ranging interests and was an active member of both the Botany Group, of which she was Assistant Secretary in 1989, and the Geology Group. She contributed reports on excursions undertaken by these groups as well as occasional reports of meetings of the Fauna Survey Group. On two occasions, having taken part in the Annual Camp of the Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association, she provided reports that detailed the activities that took place.

For more than 20 years Dorothy was involved in most aspects of production of the Club's newsletter, *Field Nats News*. From its first issue, in November 1990, until the December 1992/January 1993 issue, it was Dorothy who typed up and laid out the material, in her spare time at her work place. She would then deliver it to a nearby 'Pink Panther', for printing. In the early days of *Field Nats News*, Dorothy and Noel Schleiger between them also did all the collation of the 500 plus copies of the newsletter. Dorothy continued to assist with collation well past issue no. 200.

As well as her role with the newsletter, Dorothy contributed to the smooth operation of the Club's journal. From 2001 until October 2012 Dorothy undertook the essential task of sending complimentary copies of *The Victorian Naturalist* to authors, following the publication of each issue.

In June 1990 Dorothy took on the role of Excursion Secretary. Until she stepped down in May 1998 she organised, was the contact point for, took part in (often as leader), and reported on dozens of FNCV general excursions. All parts of the metropolitan area, as well as locations within easy driving distance of Mel-



bourne, were covered. During this period Dorothy was also the FNCV Tour Operator, and organised what became memorable interstate trips. Destinations included Binna Burra, within Lamington National Park in Queensland (August 1991); the northern coast of Tasmania (11–24 January 1992); Kangaroo Island (10–23 October 1993); Lake Mungo and Mootwingee (26 August–7 September 1995) and the Mount Kosciuszko area (17–25 January 1997). Extended trips were planned and undertaken also to the Grampians (six days in October 1992) and south-western Victoria (three days in March 1993).

In 1994, the same time that she was organising some of these activities, Dorothy also served as a member of FNCV Council.

Dorothy was made an Honorary Member of FNCV in August 2012, along with her partner, Noel Schleiger, for their individual and joint contributions to the Club. Dorothy's input to FNCV was wide-ranging, significant and enduring. As Valda Dedman wrote in 2005 (*The*

*Victorian Naturalist* 122: 309) 'Dorothy Mahler is a great worker ... She represents the indispensable 'backroom girls', not on Council, but essential to the Club.'

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## Wetland Weeds: Causes, Cures and Compromises

by Nick Romanowski

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria 2011. 140 pages, paperback, colour photographs. ISBN 9780643103955. RRP \$49.95.

Nick Romanowski has been infatuated with indigenous wetland plants for over four decades and his passion shows in *Wetland Weeds: Causes, Cures and Compromises*, a book written in his endeavours to educate people about the dangers of using introduced plants in aquaria and ponds or water gardens. His efforts are commendable. Weeds of waterways have many costs — environmental, economic and cultural. They can out-compete desired native plants, thus reducing biodiversity; form dense infestations that clog waterways, making their navigation difficult and impeding recreational activities, irrigation and industrial processes; and divert waterflow, resulting in erosion and/or flooding. Weeds also can be difficult and costly to eradicate. There is much information concerning the problems caused by aquatic weeds (e.g. Adair and Groves 1998; Groves *et al.* 2005), as well as examples of the cost of their management, such as \$1.6 million for the *Salvinia* infestation in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River in 2004 (Gorham 2008) and \$140 000 per annum for *Cabomba caroliniana* Fanwort in Lake Macdonald in the Noosa biosphere in Queensland (Moran 2009). As Romanowski says (page 13), the primary theoretical defence against weeds is education. I would have preferred, therefore, that the sections in Chapter 1 on problems caused by weeds and the causes of weediness, had provided

ed much greater detail. The chapter, however, does provide a good overview of what a weed is and the legal and official categories of weeds.

Chapter 2 discusses prevention, different types of control and management of weeds. The author pragmatically explains the importance of differentiating between the various types and levels of threat posed by weeds and the likelihood of eradication or control. At times, however, he tends to ramble and rely on his

